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OFFICIAL - INFORMAL: FOR DCM BROOKS FROM EAP/K DUNLOP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: AMGT

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. S ENTIRE TEXT

2. THIS IS ABOUT KAL 858.

3. AS EVIDENCE ACCUMULATES THAT KAL 858 WAS DESTROYED BY TERRORISTS, AND OF THE LINK TO N. KOREA, WE ANTICIPATE THE ROKG WILL BE STRONGLY INCLINED TO TAKE AN EXTREMELY TOUGH POSITION (INFLUENCED IN GOOD MEASURE BY THE ELECTION DYNAMICS), POSSIBLY EVEN RAISING THE SPECTER OF RETALIATION; AND IF SO, WE EXPECT THAT THE ROKG WILL WISH TO ASSOCIATE US TO THE MAXIMUM WITH THEIR STANCE. WE WERE THUS ENCOURAGED AT THE FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT CHUN, WHICH WAS FORCEFUL BUT TEMPERED AND DID NOT MOOT RETALIATION.

4. I RECALL A REFERENCE IN A POL-MIL BREAKFAST MEMO

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SEVERAL WEEKS AGO TO "SUGGESTIONS" BY SENIOR ROKG MILITARY TO THE CINC THAT WE ISSUE SOME KIND OF STATEMENT ENDORSING RETALIATION. ANY REPORTS OF THIS NATURE WOULD BE OF ACUTE INTEREST HERE, AND SHOULD BE SENT FRONT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAMUEL V SMITH  
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 25X6  
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 3 DEC 2022  
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